¶ To all and euery the Miniſters, Church-wardens, and Side-men, *within the Citie, Suburbs, and Dioceſſe of* London.

WHereas I am daily aduertiſed by the relations of many honeſt and Religious perſons, of a generall miſbehauiour in moſt Churches in, and about the Citie of *London*, in time of diuine Seruice; Men and Boyes ſitting then couered with their hats on their heads, without all ſhew of reuerence or reſpect, either of that holy place or action, the one being the Houſe of Almightie God, the other a continued viciſſitude (as it were) of ſpeech betweene God and his people. The due conſideration whereof might eaſily induce any well diſpoſed Chriſtian, to vſe ſuch outward poſture and geſture of his body as becommeth that ſacred place, and the great Maieſtie of that God, to whom they come at that time profeſſedly to performe a diuine worſhip. I haue therefore thought it my dutie, inſtantly to recommend to you the Miniſters, Church-wardens, and Side-men, the reformation of this profane abuſe, ſcandalous to our Religion, againſt an expreſſe Law in that caſe prouided, and condemned by the contrary practiſe of all Chriſtians in all ages in their like Solemnities and Aſſemblies; Praying and requiring you to ioyne together your vtmoſt and beſt endeauors to effect the ſame, for which purpoſe it ſhalbe neceſſary for you the Church-wardens and Side-men, during the time of diuine Seruice, diligently to looke about the Church, and where you ſee any couered, if boyes, or of the yonger ſort, theſe to ſhame openly by pulling off their hats, and chaſtice with ſuch diſcipline, as you haue bin laudably accuſtomed to inflict vpon ſuch rude and vnmannerly fellowes. If of the elder or better ſort (though I well hope that none of that condition out of their owne iudgement will hereafter offend in this kind) thoſe to admoniſh gravely of their duety, repreſenting vnto them the inconueniences of this their ill example, and how directly repugnant it is to the Apoſtles rule of decency in the Church, thus to celebrate diuine Seruice, and to performe a profeſſed and religious worſhip of Almighty God. After which your admonition, if any ſhall obſtinately refuſe to vncouer his, or their heads in Seruice time, you ſhall then preſent them to mee or my Chancellour, to the end, that they by the ſeueritie of Cenſures may be amended, by whom brotherly and gentle perſwaſions haue been contemned.

Moreouer alſo I am certainely informed, that the publike ſeruice of Almighty God in the Churches is much omitted, and thereby come to neglect, and almoſt ſcorned, foraſmuch as the Miniſters reade not Diuine Seruice, the firſt and ſecond ſeruice, before their ſermons according to the order of our Church Liturgie, and the Cannon, in that caſe prouided, I doe therefore hereby require all the Parſons, Vicars, and Curates in my Dioceſſe, to take care that they offend not in this kind, ſtrictly likewiſe requiring you the Church-wardens and Side-men that according to your oaths, you preſent to me or my Chancellor, thoſe Miniſters that ſhalbe faulty in this kind, and that you admit no man to preach in your ſeuerall Churches, who is not licenced thereunto, and his licenſe to appeare, to you the Miniſters and Church-wardens, and that he write his name with the day of the moneth when he preacheth; and by whom he was licenced to preach, in a booke by you prouided for that purpoſe, which booke is to remaine in the cheſt of your Pariſh Churches, that ſo I may be able to make anſwere if enquiry be made of any ſuch Preachers after their Sermons. And theſe inſtructions I doe require the Miniſters of the dioceſſe of London, to publiſh in their ſeuerall Churches, and that a copy of them be affixed to ſome eminent place in euery of your Churches, that they may be ſeene and reade of all men, that ſo no man may pretend ignorance of his duty in that; whereof both the Lawes of God, and the King require a carefull, and religious performance.

GEO: LONDON.

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